
Commemoration of the Day:

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ’s earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ’s raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. “Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass” (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the “hour” of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: “Do you accept Christ?” We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: “I accept Him as King and God!”

Thus, on the eve of Christ’s Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom: ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

-Very Rev. Paul Lazor (OCA.org)

Announcements

Our parish Parish Book Study continues on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month following Vespers. Our next text will be The Art of Myrrh Bearing. The next meeting will be on April 25th. (We are skipping the usual meeting the second weekend of the month on account of Holy Saturday/Pascha.)

April Parish Council meeting will be following coffee hour on the 19th.

Please keep the newly departed Handmaiden of God, Joan, in your prayers through the 40th day of her repose (April 11th). She is a daughter of our parish and a life long member.

Donations in memory of departed loved ones for the Pascha Lily baskets can be given to Marie Evanina, baskets are \$25 each. Sign up sheet for the Paschal Grave watch is on the candle desk, please sign up to participate in these important prayers.

Sign up sheet for lunch at the Greek American Grill on Bright Saturday is on the candle desk. Signing up helps us give the restaurant a heads up as to the size of our party.

Pankhida following Liturgy this morning in memory Archpriest Joseph and Wanda on their birthday and other family members ia offered by Gloria Martin and family.

Spiritual Food for Thought:

“To say that God turns away from the sinful is like saying that the sun hides from the blind.”

-St. Anthony the Great

Prayers for the Sick:

Archpriest Vladimir	James
Archpriest John	Thomas
Archpriest Gregory	Diane
Archpriest John	William
Archpriest Daniel	Oliver
Priest Michael	Timothy
Matushka Gloria	Joseph
Matushka Myra	Agape
John	Dimitrios

Holy Week and Bright Week Services:

Monday – Bridegroom Matins – 6:00pm

Wednesday – Holy Unction – 6:00pm

Thursday – Divine Liturgy, Institution of the Eucharist– 9:30am

12 Passion Gospels – 6:00pm

Friday – Vespers – 3:00pm

Matins with Lamentations – 6:00pm

Saturday – Vespersal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday – 9:30am

Paschal Vigil at 10:00pm

Sunday – Agape Vespers – 12:30pm

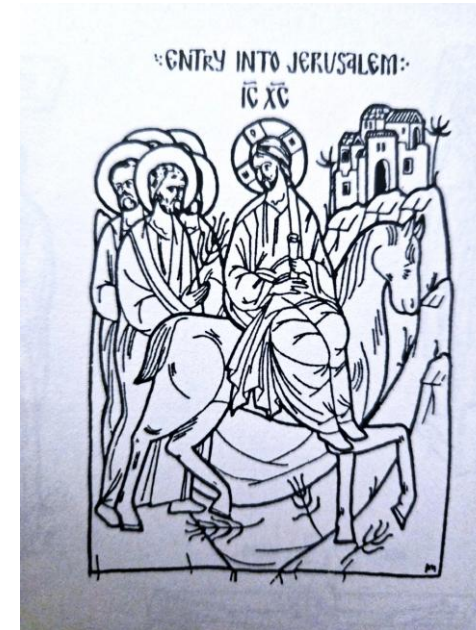
Monday – Bright Monday Divine Liturgy – 9:30am @All Saints

Friday – Vespers – 6:00pm (informal parish BBQ to follow)

Saturday – Bright Saturday Divine Liturgy – 9:30am

(brunch at the diner to follow)

Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem Palm Sunday April 5th, 2026



St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
His Eminence, Archbishop Mark – Hierarch

Rev. Nathan Clausson – Rector
Very Rev. Vladimir Fetcho – Attached
Very Rev. John Nightingale – Attached
Mark Howanetz – Choir Director
Thomas LaTournous – Parish Council President